



JAMETHYST

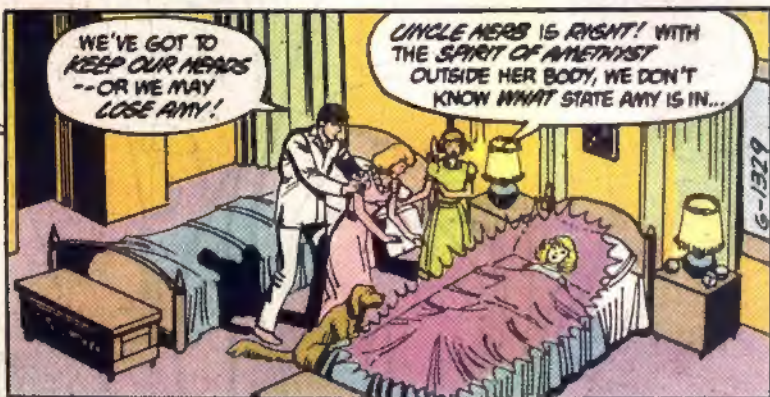
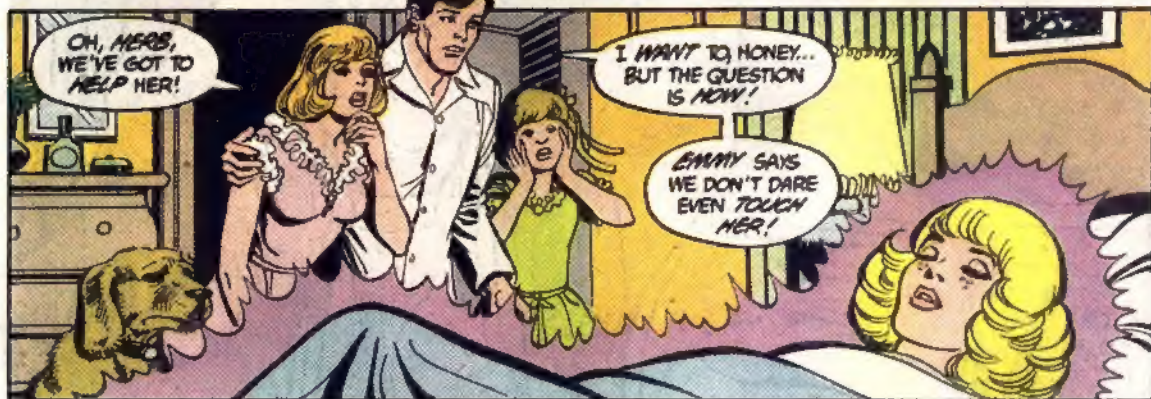
PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

95¢

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FEB. 85

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



SUDDENLY THERE IS MAGIC-- AND A CHILD'S DREAMS BECOME REALITY! FOR ON A WORLD OF FANTASY ANY WISHES LEADS ANOTHER LIFE--THE LIFE OF...

HELLP MEEE

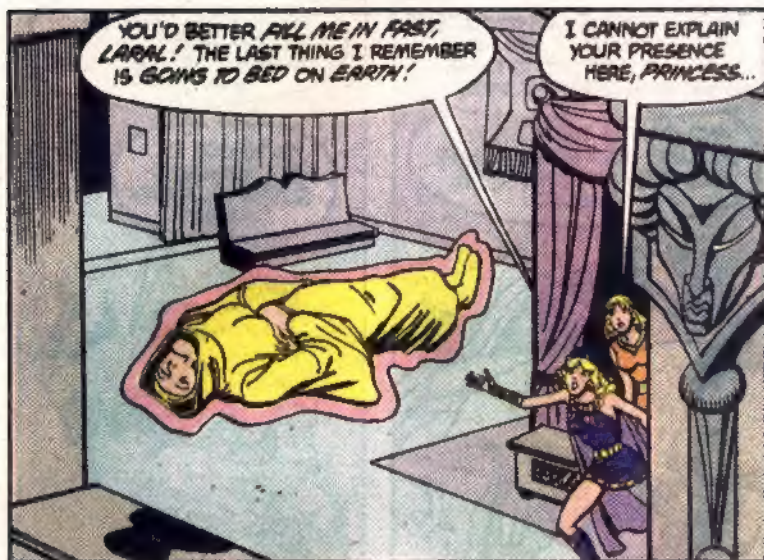
AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD



SLEEPWALKERS

DAN MISHKIN & GARY COHN, RIC ESTRADA & RAYMO TANGHAL, COSTANZA, CARL GIFFORD, MORRIS BERGER
WRITERS ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR



YOU'D BETTER KILL ME IN FAST, LARAL! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS GOING TO BED ON EARTH!

I CANNOT EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE HERE, PRINCESS...



BUT CITRINA HAS TOSED IN HER FEVER DREAMS FOR WEEKS ON END...

...AWAKENING ONLY BRIEFLY TO CALL YOUR NAME!



WELL, NOW THAT SHE'S GOT ME, I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING TO--



UH--OH--THAT WEIRD COOCON AROUND HER IS TEARING AWAY MY MAGIC!

AND SHE'S FLOATING RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!



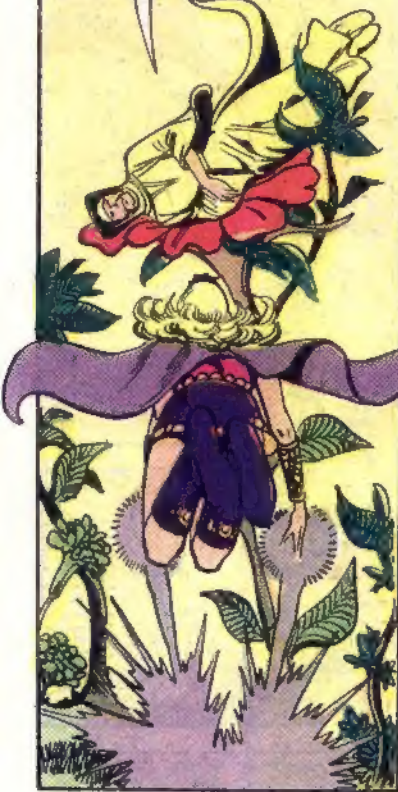
I'M COMING, CITRINA! MAYBE MY MISTIC ENERGY CAN'T TOUCH YOU--



--BUT I CAN STILL USE IT ON SOMETHING THAT CAN!

PRINCESS--?

I'LL BET MY MOM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS KIND OF FERTILIZER IN HER GARDEN!



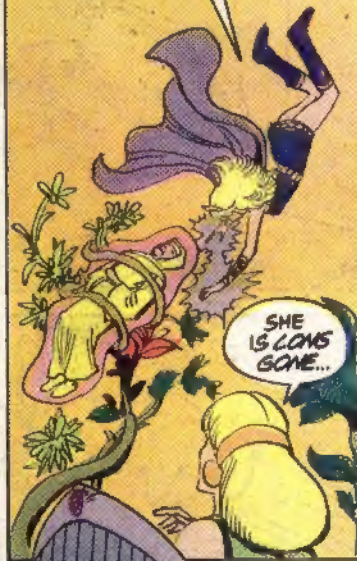
THERE! THOSE ELONGATED STEMS HAVE GOT HOLD OF HER NOW! THAT'LL PUT AN END TO THESE UNSCHEDULED TAKE-OFFS!

AND MAKING THE FLOWERS RESUME THEIR NORMAL SHAPE WILL DRAW HER BACK TO THE GROUND!



BUT IT'S A SURE THING THIS "ILLNESS" OF HERS IS SOME KIND OF MAGICAL ATTACK!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND IT... FAUNA MAYBE?



SHE IS GONE...

FAUNA KNEW SHE STOOD REVEALED AS DARK CARN'S SPY, & AND FLED!

SO MANY WORRIES, PRINCESS! BUT WITH YOUR RETURN SO TOO RETURNS MY HOPE!

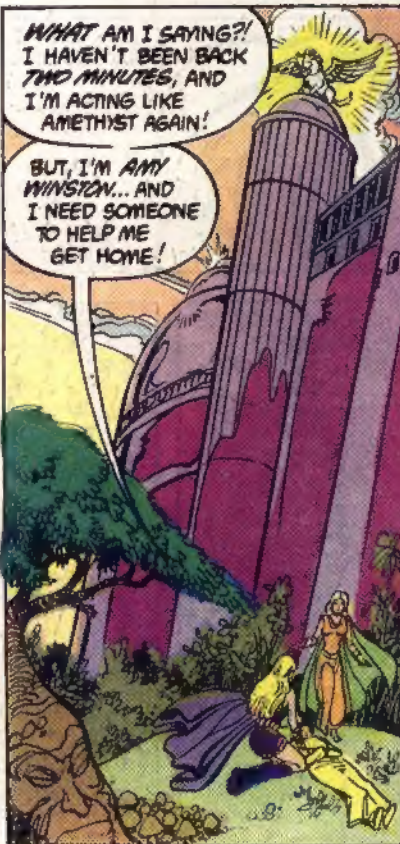


YES, NOW THAT I'M HERE...

* SEE THE MAXI-SERIES.

WHAT AM I SAYING?! I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TWO MINUTES, AND I'M ACTING LIKE AMETHYST AGAIN!

BUT, I'M AMY WINSTON... AND I NEED SOMEONE TO HELP ME GET HOME!

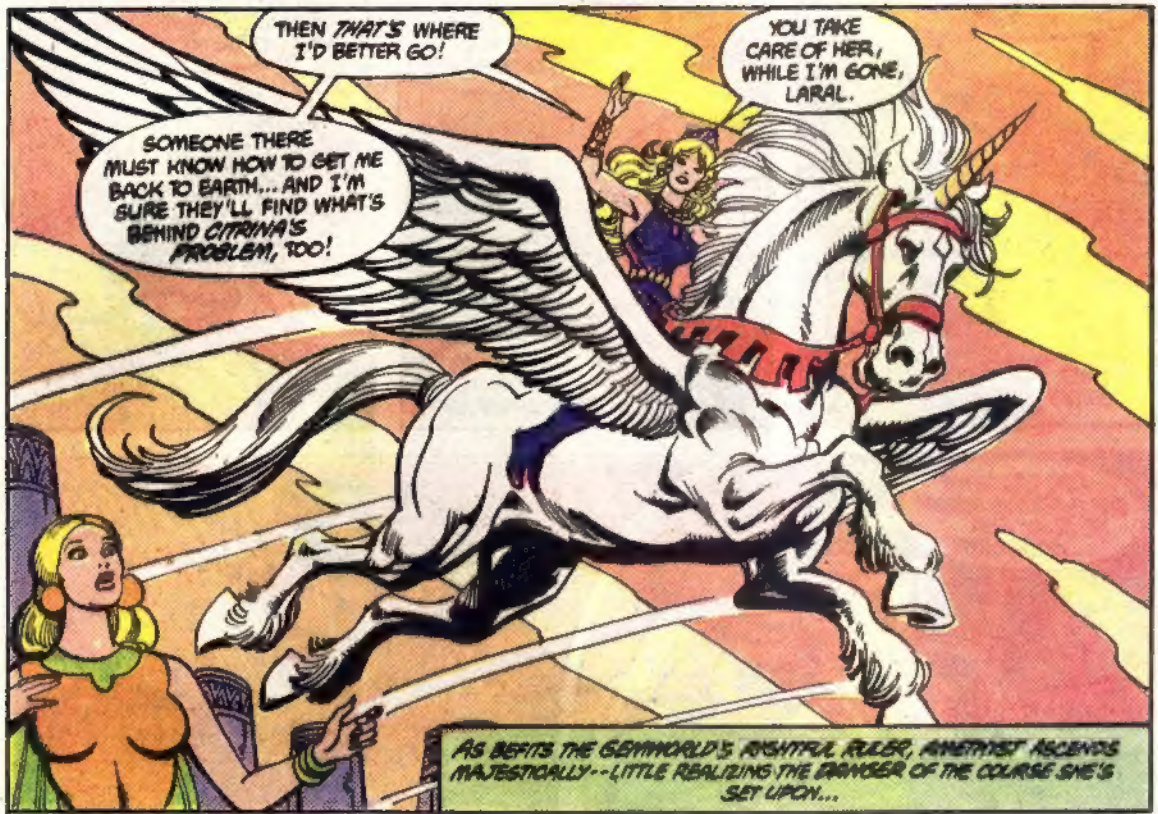


IS LORD GARNET AT HIS DOMAIN?



HE HAS JOINED A CONVOCATION OF THE NOBLES AT THE DIAMOND TEMPLE! (4)

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



THEN THAT'S WHERE
I'D BETTER GO!

SOMEONE THERE
MUST KNOW HOW TO GET ME
BACK TO EARTH... AND I'M
SURE THEY'LL FIND WHAT'S
BEHIND CITRINA'S
PROBLEM, TOO!

YOU TAKE
CARE OF HER,
WHILE I'M GONE,
LARAL.

AS BEFITS THE GEMWORLD'S RIGHTFUL RULER, ANETHYST ASCENDS
MAJESTICALLY--LITTLE REALIZING THE DANGER OF THE COURSE SHE'S
SET UPON...



...WHILE OTHERS WHO
FACE DANGER DAILY
DO NOT KNOW WHAT
MAJESTY FATE HAS
IN STORE!

FOR A SIMPLE FISHERMAN
OF THE ISLAND REALM OF
AQUAMARINE...



...ALL THAT IS
ABOUT TO
CHANGE!

EH? SOMETHING FEELS
ON THE NET!

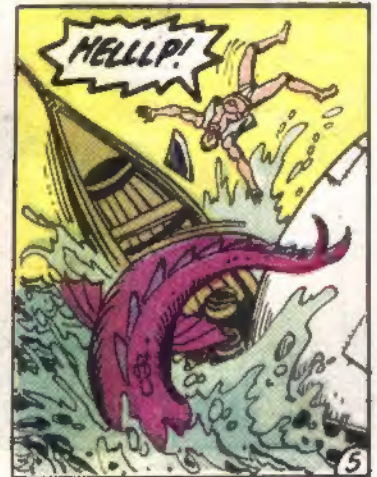
BUT IS IT
MERELY
SWISHED OR...



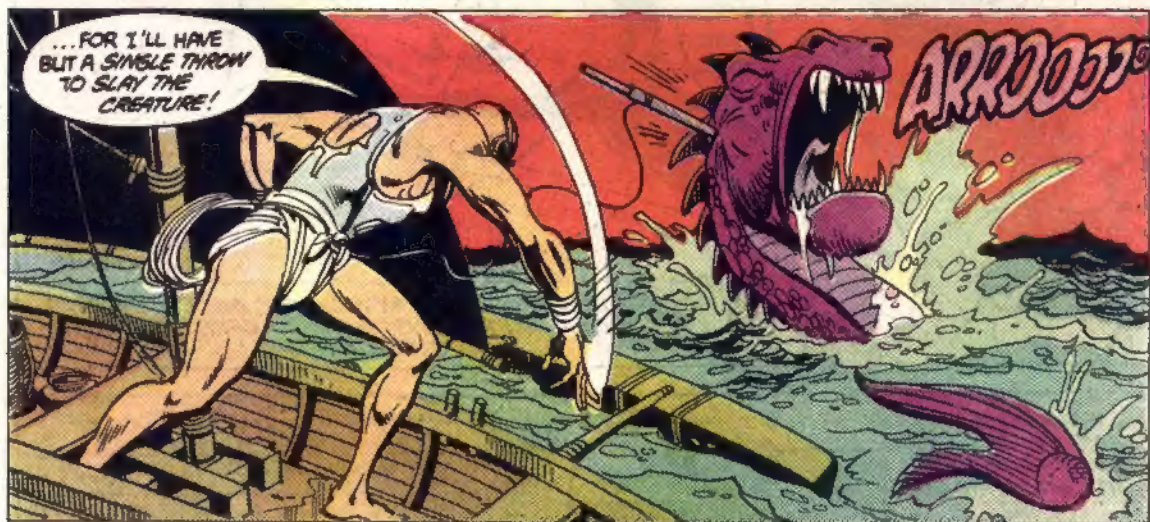
AAASH! THERE IS
ANOTHER WHO WANTS
MY CATCH!



...OR
ME!



HELLP!





HERE.

HA HA--OOH,
MOTHER, DO
YOU SEE?

YES, MY
LOVE...



...I SEE THAT YOUR
FATHER HAS RETURNED!



OH, QUUAR, I
FEARED FOR YOUR
SAFETY!!

I WAS...
DELAYED.

WOULD YOU
LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF THAT?!



AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...

YOUR COURAGE HAS
PROVIDED US A FABE
FEAST, QUUAR...



AND THIS GATHERING GIVES US
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
OLD YUHR?



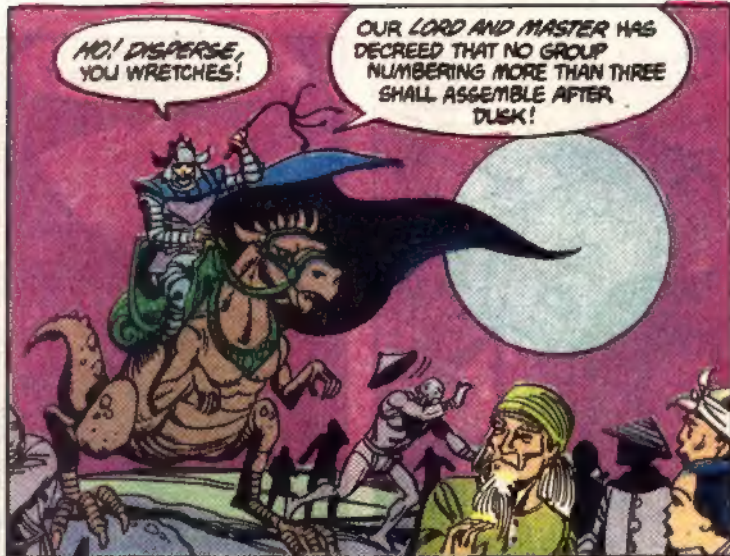
FOR MANY CYCLES OF THE
TIDES, WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING,
QUUAR... PLANNING AN END
TO THESE DISMAL DAYS!

BUT WE HAVE NEEDED
POWER--AND A LEADER
TO COMMAND US!



DAYS AGO WE FOUND AN ALLY
WITH THE MIGHT TO OVERTHROW
THE BRUTAL REIGN OF LORD
AQUAMARINE!

AND IN YOU
I SEE THE
LEADER
WHO CAN--



NO! DISPERSE,
YOU WRETCHES!

OUR LORD AND MASTER HAS
DECEED THAT NO GROUP
NUMBERING MORE THAN THREE
SHALL ASSEMBLE AFTER
DUSK!



YOU ARE IN
VIOLATION OF
HIS COMMAND!

HE WHO COMMANDS
BY ZEROR SHALL
DIE BY IT! AS WILL
HIS HIRED--



THWACK

OLD
YUNR!



TOO FAR, OPPRESSOR! THIS
TIME LORD AQUAMARINE
HAS PUSHED TOO FAR!

WE HAVE SUMMERED
UNDERNEATH HIS BOOT TOO
LONG--WHILE HE HAS
TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM
US, HIS PEOPLE...



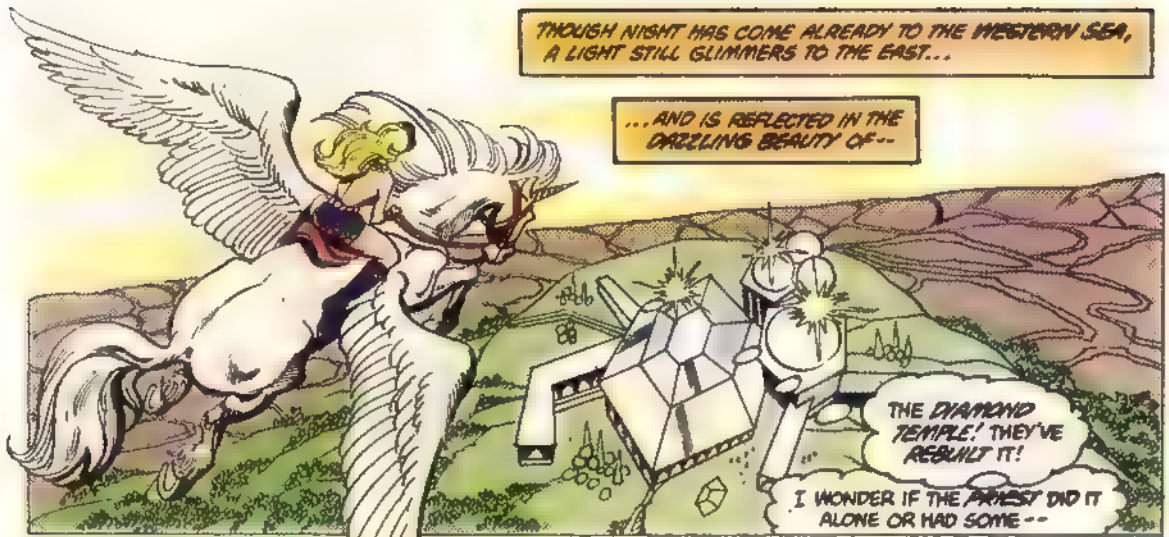
... AND GIVEN ONLY TO HIMSELF,
SO THAT HIS POWER MAY GROW!

AND THAT--
LARK-- IS AS IT--
SHOULD BE...



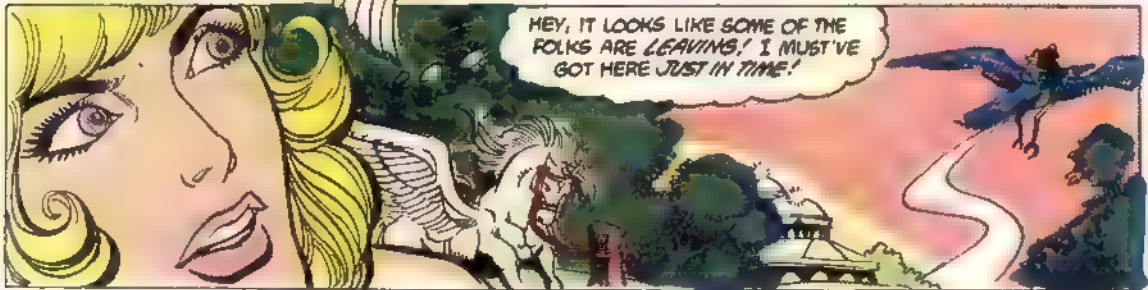
THOUGH NIGHT HAS COME ALREADY TO THE WESTERN SEA,
A LIGHT STILL GLIMMERS TO THE EAST...

...AND IS REFLECTED IN THE
DAZZLING BEAUTY OF--



THE DIAMOND
TEMPLE! THEY'VE
REBUILT IT!

I WONDER IF THE PRIEST DID IT
ALONE OR HAD SOME--



HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF THE
FOLKS ARE LEAVING! I MUST'VE
GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!



I HOPE YOU DO NOT MIND
THIS EARLY DEPARTURE,
LADY TURQUOISE, BUT I
HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND
TO IN MY OWN DOMAIN...

...AND OUR
SQUABBLING FELLOW
NOBLES WERE ACCOM-
PLISHING NOTHING!



ONE ALMOST LONGS FOR THE
DAYS OF DARK OPAL! AT
LEAST WE WERE UNITED
THEN...

...IN OPPOSITION
TO HIM, I MEAN!

OF COURSE.



HOW FAST IS THIS
BIRD, LORD AQUAMARINE?
I'M CONCERNED AT NOT
HEARING FROM PRINCE
ZOPAZ SINCE HE LEFT
FOR YOUR--

TURQUOISE!



LADY TURSDUCISE,
I HAVE COME
FOR YOU!



THAT'S TOPAZ!
BUT WHAT'S
HE DOING...
ATTACKING
THEM?!



GOOD EVE, MY LORD! THE
LADY WILL NOT REQUIRE
PASSAGE TO YOUR SHORES...
SINCE IT IS *ME* SHE'S
LOOKING FOR!

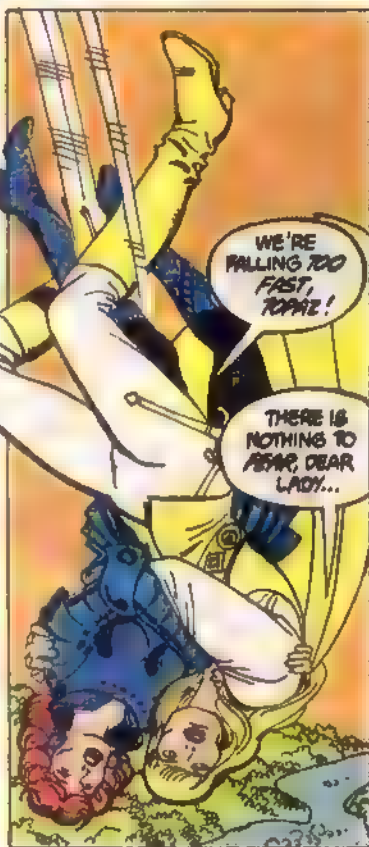
TOPAZ,
WHAT'S COME
OVER YOU--?!

THIS IS
MADNESS...



...AND MORE
EVIDENCE THAT
THE WORLD WILL
FALL APART IF
IT MUST GO
MUCH LONGER--

--WITHOUT A LEADER
TO BIND IT TO HIS
PURPOSES!



WE'RE
FALLING TOO
FAST,
TOPAZ!

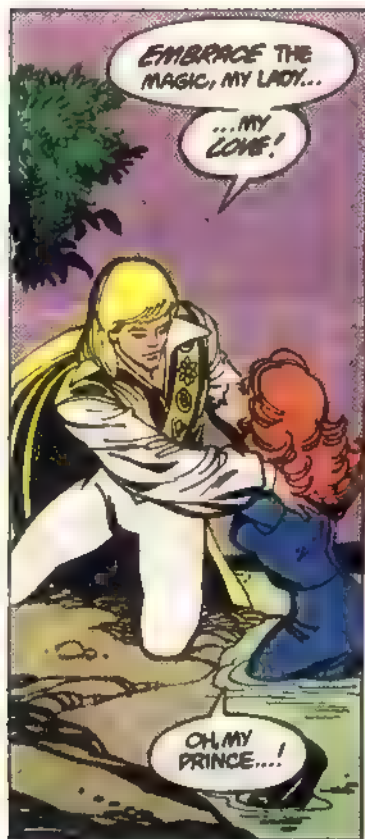
THERE IS
NOTHING TO
FEAR, DEAR
LADY...



THERE IS ONLY MAGIC--
THE MAGIC THAT WILL
ALWAYS COME TO RESCUE
SUCH AS WE...

...THE MAGIC
THAT JOINS TWO
SOULS TOGETHER
WITH ITS TENDER
TOUCH!

SPLASH



EMBRACE THE
MAGIC, MY LADY...

...MY
LOVE!

OH, MY
PRINCE....!



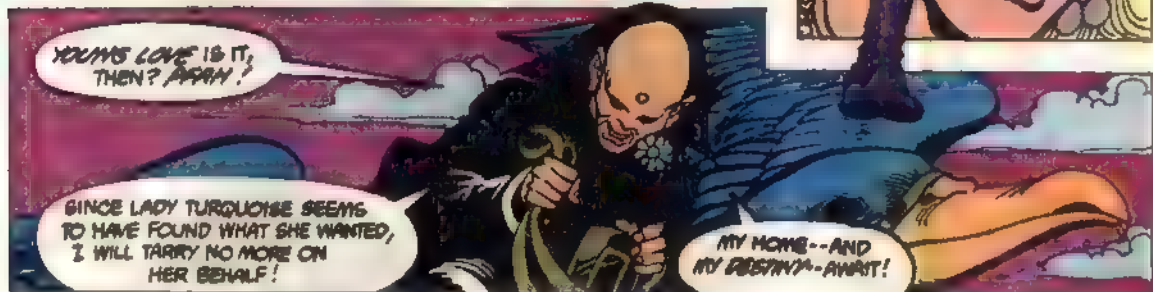
I--I THOUGHT YOU
WERE MY FRIEND,
TURQUOISE--!

PRINCE TURPZ
IS SUPPOSED TO BE
IN LOVE WITH ME!



I HATE THIS WORLD
? GOD?!

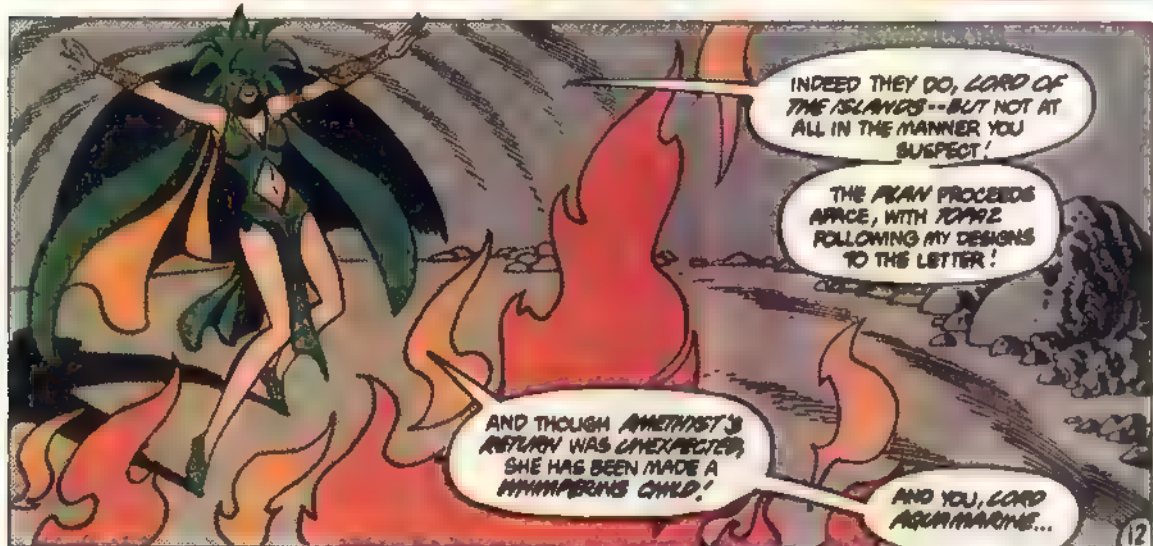
I HATE IT!



YOUR LOVE IS IT,
THEN? AFAY?

SINCE LADY TURQUOISE SEEMS
TO HAVE FOUND WHAT SHE WANTED,
I WILL TARRY NO MORE ON
HER BEHALF!

MY HOME--AND
MY DESTINY--AWAIT!

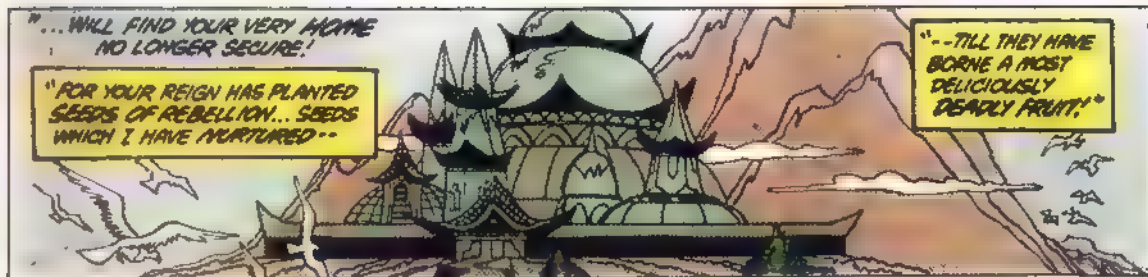


INDEED THEY DO, LORD OF
THE ISLANDS--BUT NOT AT
ALL IN THE MANNER YOU
SUSPECT!

THE AFAY PROCEEDS
AFACE, WITH TURPZ
FOLLOWING MY DESIGNS
TO THE LETTER!

AND THOUGH AMETHYST'S
AFFAIR WAS UNEXPECTED,
SHE HAS BEEN MADE A
MIMMERS CHILD!

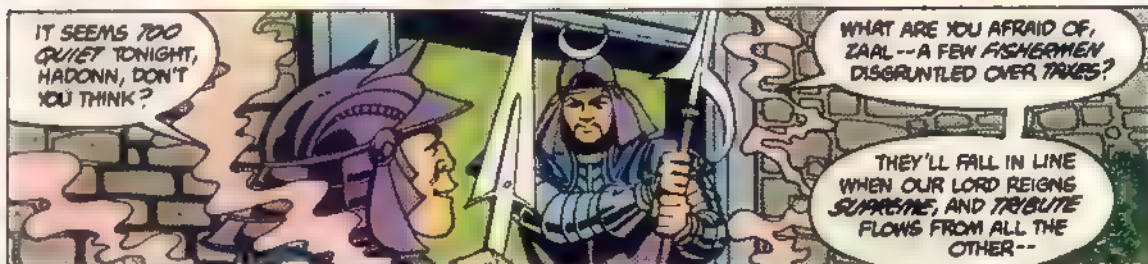
AND YOU, LORD
AQUAMARINE...



"...WILL FIND YOUR VERY HOME
NO LONGER SECURE!

"FOR YOUR REIGN HAS PLANTED
SEEDS OF REBELLION... SEEDS
WHICH I HAVE NURTURED--

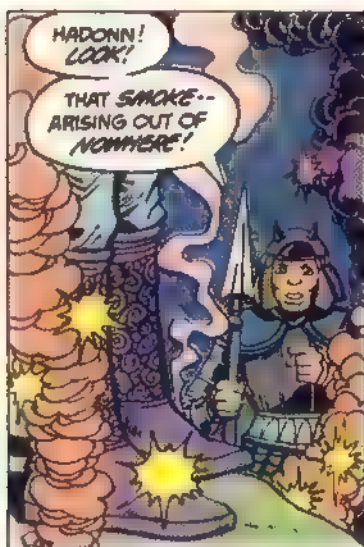
"--TILL THEY HAVE
BORNE A MOST
DELICIOUSLY
DEADLY FRUIT!"



IT SEEMS TOO
QUIET TONIGHT,
HADONN, DON'T
YOU THINK?

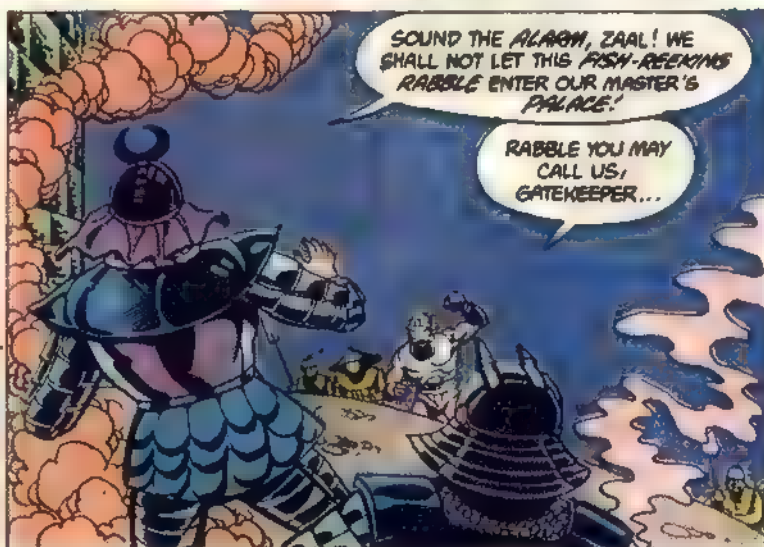
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF,
ZAAL--A FEW FISHERMEN
DISGRUNTLED OVER TAXES?

THEY'LL FALL IN LINE
WHEN OUR LORD REIGNS
SUPREME, AND TRIBUTE
FLOWS FROM ALL THE
OTHER--



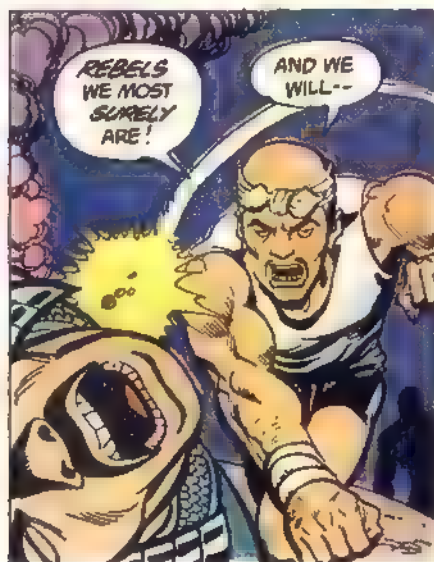
HADONN!
LOOK!

THAT SMOKE--
ARISING OUT OF
NOWHERE!



SOUND THE ALARM, ZAAL! WE
SHALL NOT LET THIS FISH-RECKING
RABBLE ENTER OUR MASTER'S
PALACE!

RABBLE YOU MAY
CALL US,
GATEKEEPER...



REBELS
WE MOST
SURELY
ARE!

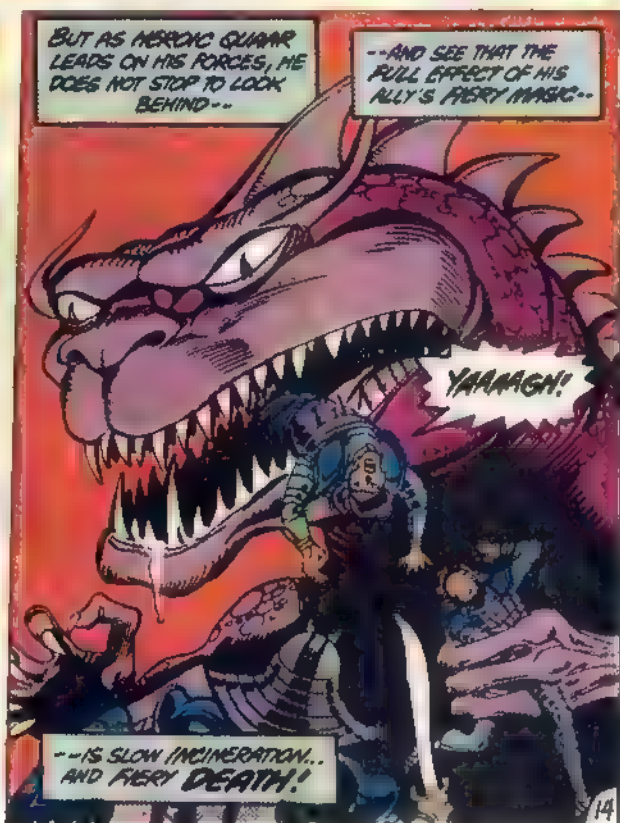
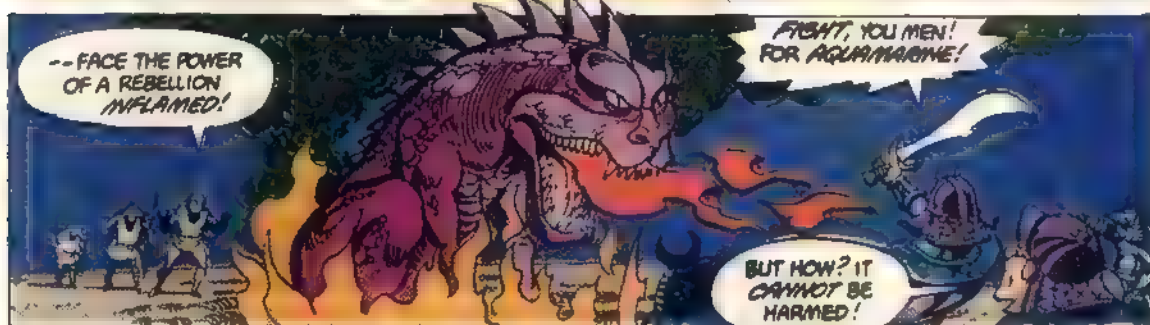
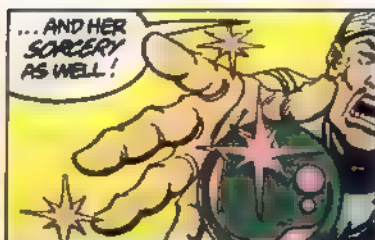
AND WE WILL--



QUAAR!
THERE ARE
MORE
COMING!

I SEE THEM,
RILIG...

...BUT WE ARE NOT
WITHOUT OUR OWN
RESOURCES!



AND WITHIN PALACE AQUAMARINE...

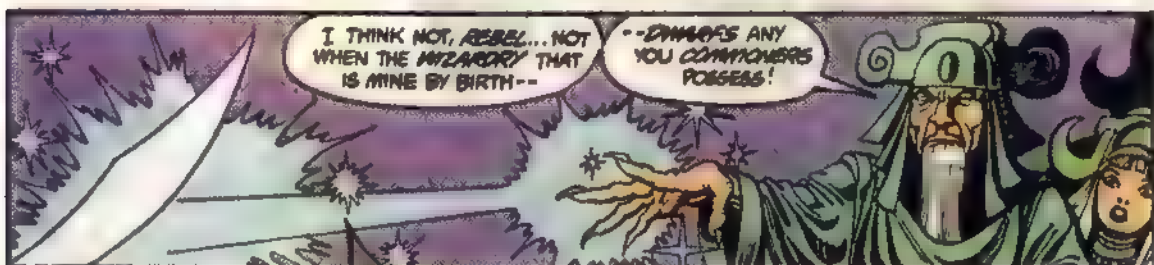
IT IS TOO LATE TO TALK
OF METHODS, LORD!

AND BY TRYING
TO ENLIST HER LADY-
SHIP, YOU --

ALL OF YOU,
BE STILL! NOT
A MOVEMENT!
IF YOU VALUE
YOUR LIVES!

THE EVIL REIGN OF LORD
AQUAMARINE IS ENDED!

WHAT--BY YOU? BY
A MOTLEY BAND OF
FISHERFOLK?



I THINK NOT, REBEL... NOT
WHEN THE MIZARDRY THAT
IS MINE BY BIRTH--

--DWARVES ANY
YOU COMMONERS
POSSESS!

MY OWN ELDRITCH
ABILITIES ARE SMALL,
IT'S TRUE...

... BUT THIS BLADE
WAS FORGED BY FIRE
JADE TO BE PROOF
AGAINST ALL MAGIC
SPELLS!

AND SO IT
IS, QUARR!

I HAVE GRANTED YOU
THE POWER TO REMOVE
THOSE WHO STAND IN
MY WAY!

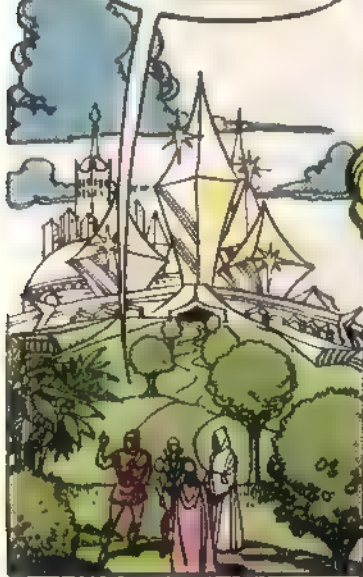
YOU THINK TO BATTLE AQUAMARINE
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD ENDS, BUT
AT THE LAST YOU ARE ONE OF MY
SERVANTS...

... WHO WILL ELIMINATE
THE MOBILITY BY ALL
AND ANY MEANS--

"--AND LEAVE'S THE GETHWORLD
JUNK FOR THE DRINKS!"

BUT DON'T YOU SEE WHAT
THIS MIGHT LEAD TO?

THE PETTY BICKERING
TODAY WILL ONLY LEAD
TO GREATER AND GREATER
DISCORD...



...UNTIL ONE OF US DECIDES
THAT UNITY MUST BE IMPOSED!

AND ONLY TOO LATE WILL
WE LEARN IF THAT SELF-
PROCLAIMED LEADER
IS ANOTHER DARK ONE--

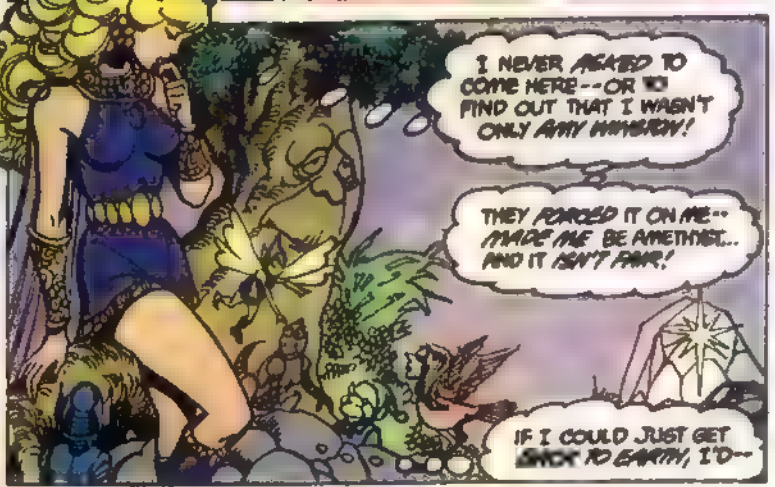
"--OR ANOTHER
AMETHYST!"



I NEVER AGAED TO
COME HERE-- OR TO
FIND OUT THAT I WASN'T
ONLY ANY HUMANITY!

THEY FORCED IT ON ME--
MADE ME BE AMETHYST...
AND IT ISN'T FAIR!

IF I COULD JUST GET
SHOT TO EARTH, I'D--



SAY, I REMEMBER...

I COULDN'T USE
A GEM RING
TO TRAVEL IN THIS
DIRECTION,
BUT MAYBE...



OH, NO!

I'VE LET SOMETHING
LOOSE FROM THE REALM
BETWEEN EARTH
AND THE GETHWORLD!



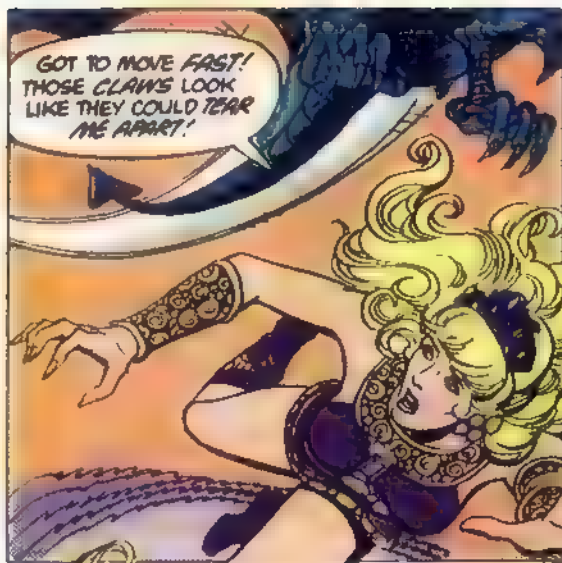
THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL
JUNK THAT'S FILLING IT UP &
MUST BE ABLE TO LEAK OUT
INTO EITHER WORLD!

OOH!
HIID!

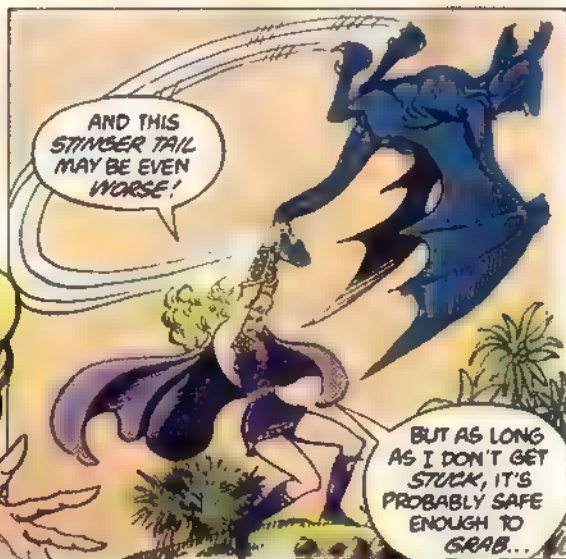
Jeebers!



& SINCE THE AMETHYST ANNAL--KS.

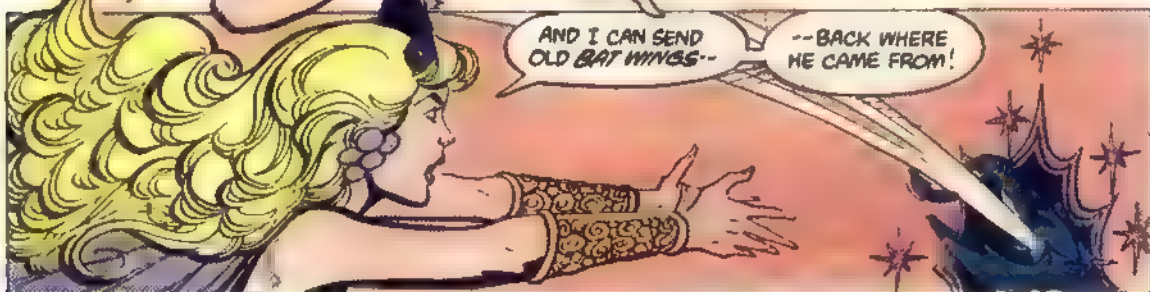


GOT TO MOVE FAST!
THOSE CLAWS LOOK
LIKE THEY COULD TEAR
ME APART!



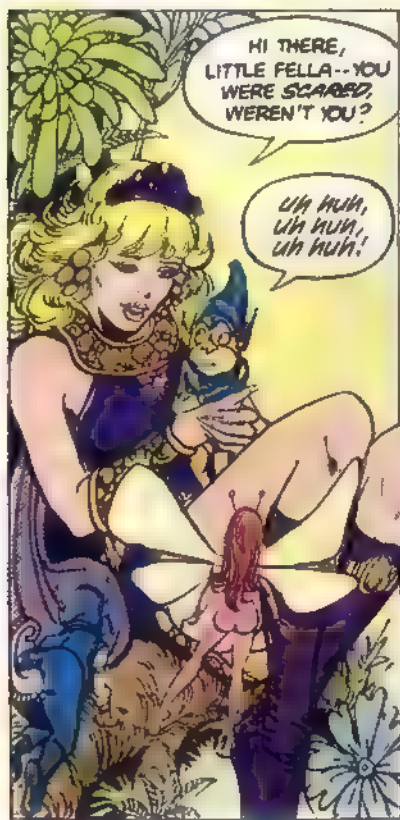
AND THIS
STINGER TAIL
MAY BE EVEN
WORSE!

BUT AS LONG
AS I DON'T GET
STUCK, IT'S
PROBABLY SAFE
ENOUGH TO
GRAB...



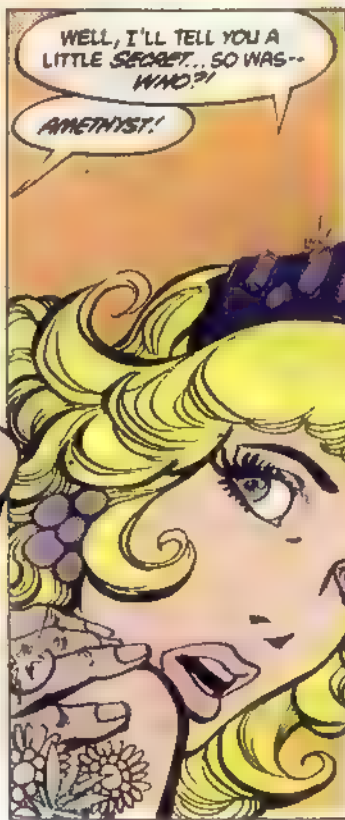
AND I CAN SEND
OLD BAT WINGS--

--BACK WHERE
HE CAME FROM!



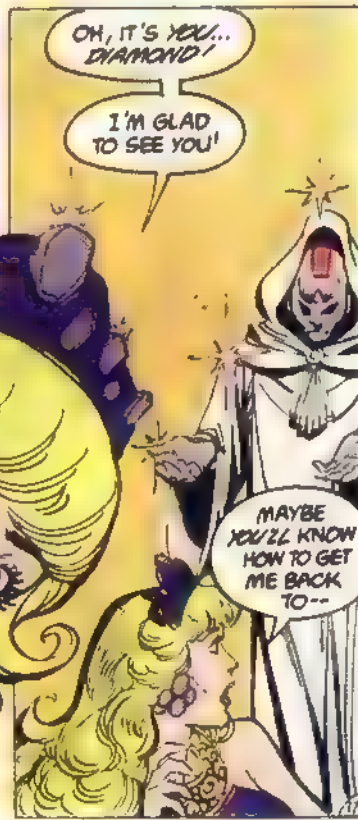
HI THERE,
LITTLE FELLA--YOU
WERE SCARED,
WEREN'T YOU?

UH HUH,
UH HUH,
UH HUH!



WELL, I'LL TELL YOU A
LITTLE SECRET... SO WAS--
WHO?!

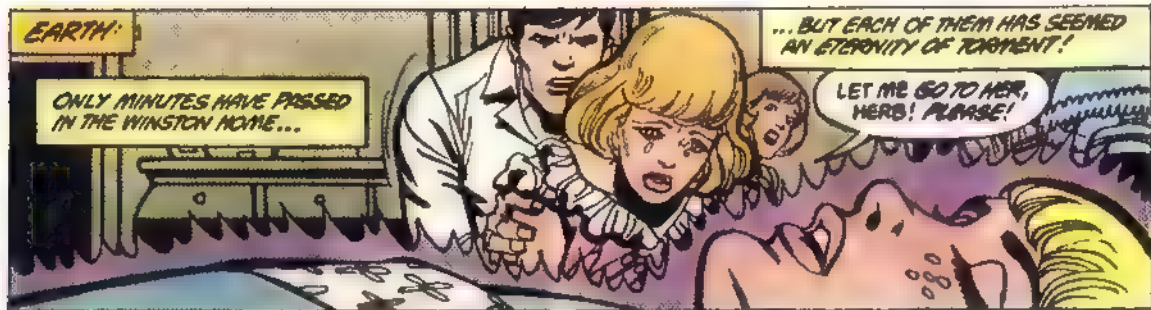
AMETHYST!



OH, IT'S YOU...
DIAMOND!

I'M GLAD
TO SEE YOU!

MAYBE
YOU'LL KNOW
HOW TO GET
ME BACK
TO--

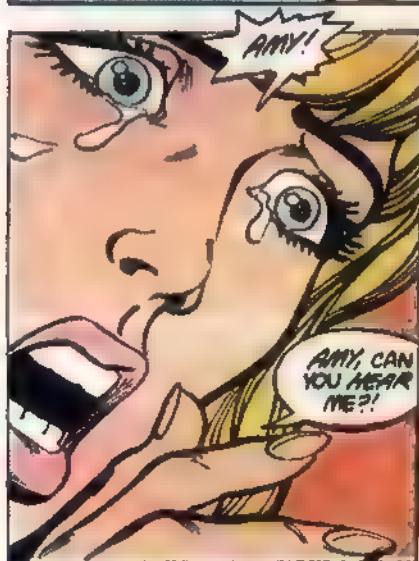


EARTH:

ONLY MINUTES HAVE PASSED
IN THE WINSTON HOME...

... BUT EACH OF THEM HAS SEEMED
AN ETERNITY OF TORTURE!

LET ME GO TO HER,
HERB! PLEASE!



AMY!

AMY, CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?!

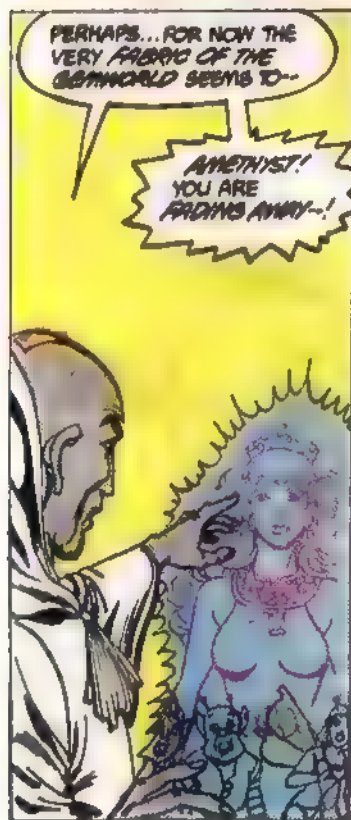


YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME,
AMETHYST-- AND UNDERSTAND!

ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW
THE CAUSE, THERE IS A REASON
THAT YOU HAVE RETURNED
TO US!

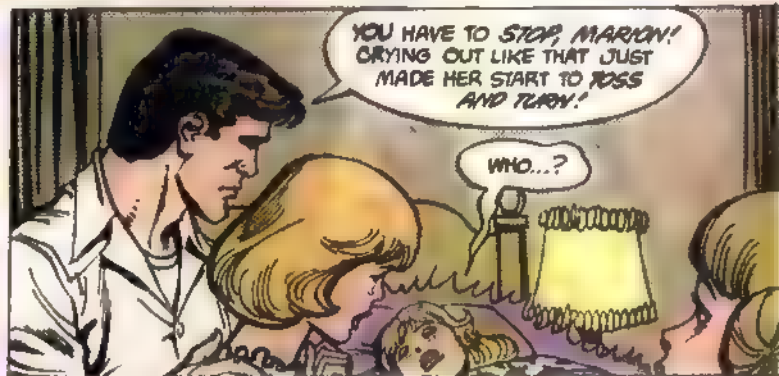
YOUR LEADERSHIP
IS NEEDED NOW MORE
THAN EVER BEFORE!

MORE THAN WHEN I
LED THE FIGHT AGAINST
DARK ORAL?



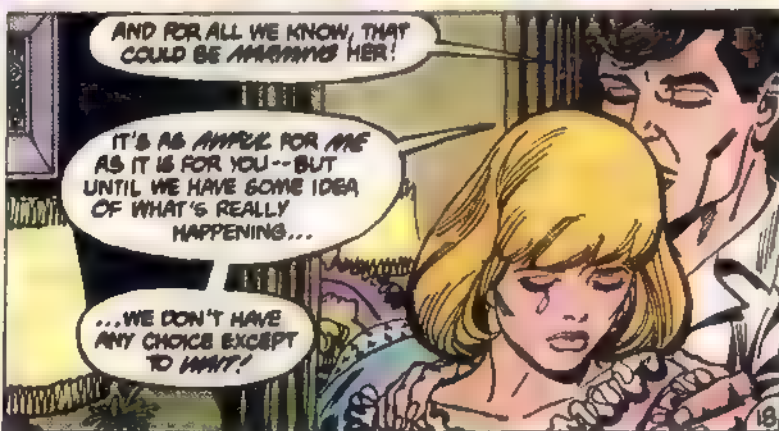
PERHAPS... FOR NOW THE
VERY FABRIC OF THE
BOMMWORLD SEEMS TO--

AMETHYST!
YOU ARE
FADING AWAY--!



YOU HAVE TO STOP, MARION!
CRYING OUT LIKE THAT JUST
MADE HER START TO ROSS
AND TURN!

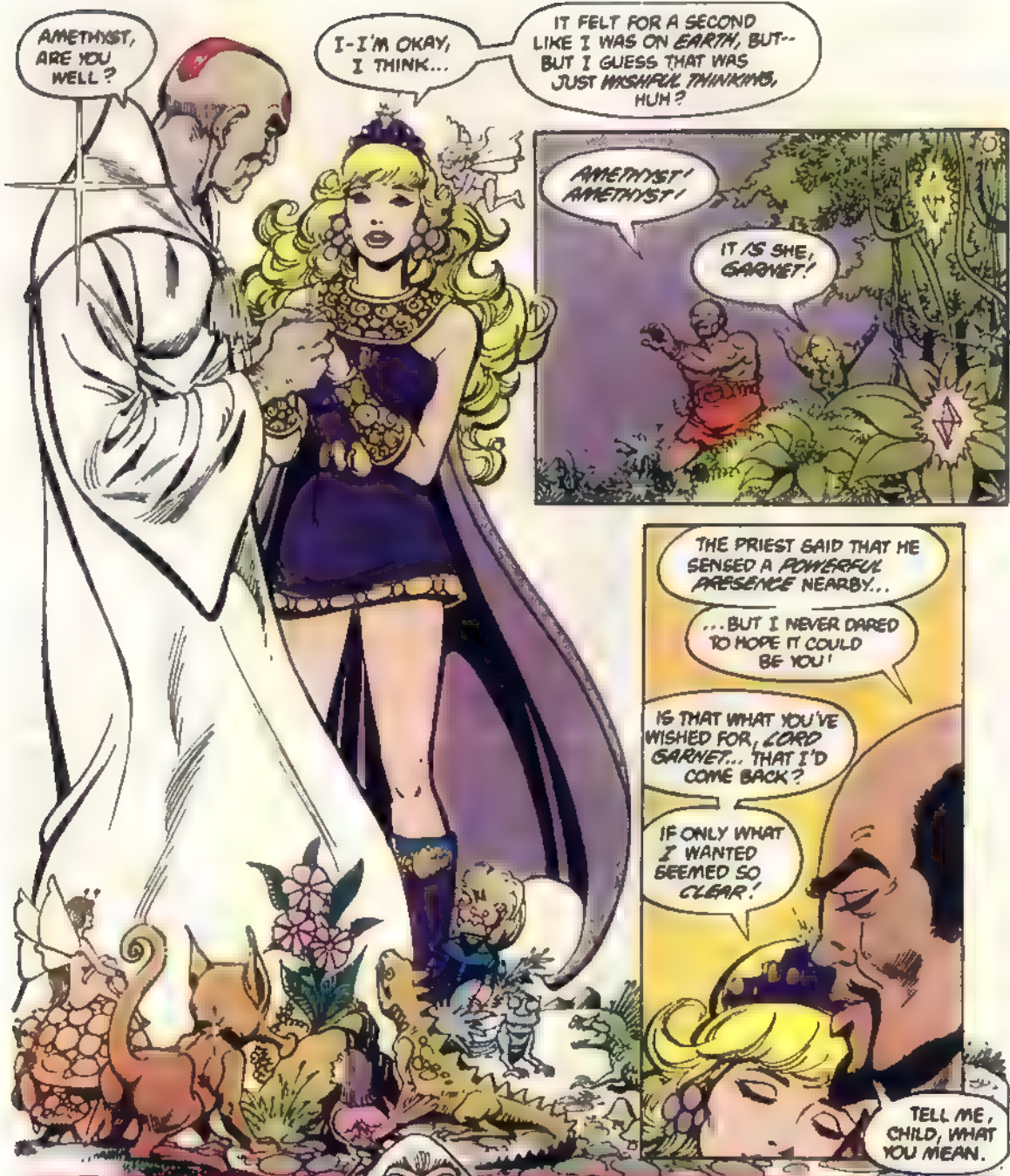
WHO...?



AND FOR ALL WE KNOW, THAT
COULD BE AMETHYST HER!

IT'S AS AWFUL FOR ME
AS IT IS FOR YOU-- BUT
UNTIL WE HAVE SOME IDEA
OF WHAT'S REALLY
HAPPENING...

...WE DON'T HAVE
ANY CHOICE EXCEPT
TO WAIT!



AMETHYST,
ARE YOU
WELL?

I-I'M OKAY,
I THINK...

IT FELT FOR A SECOND
LIKE I WAS ON EARTH, BUT--
BUT I GUESS THAT WAS
JUST WISHFUL THINKING,
HUH?

AMETHYST!
AMETHYST!

IT IS SHE,
GARNET!

THE PRIEST SAID THAT HE
SENSED A *POWERFUL*
PRESENCE NEARBY...

...BUT I NEVER DARED
TO HOPE IT COULD
BE YOU!

IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE
WISHED FOR, LORD
GARNET... THAT I'D
COME BACK?

IF ONLY WHAT
I WANTED
SEEMED SO
CLEAR!

TELL ME,
CHILD, WHAT
YOU MEAN.



PRINCESS, I CAN
SEE THAT YOU ARE
TROUBLED. BUT
I MUST ASK--

--WHAT FATE
HAS BEFALLEN
MY SISTER?

EMMY'S SAFE ON
EARTH, PRINCESS
EMERALD. BUT SHE'S
STRANDED THERE...

...JUST LIKE
I'M STUCK
HERE!

HIGH ABOVE THE WORLD
THAT NYMETHYST IS
LONGING FOR--

--A SOLITARY SATELLITE
IS SPINNING ON AN
ENIGMATIC COURSE!

ITS ORIGIN IS A MYSTERY, ITS PRESENCE
UNDETECTED... AND IT'S PURPOSE IS THE
LONG-HELD SECRET OF--

--THE MONITOR!

CAN THIS BE RIGHT?
THERE'S AN IMMENSE
POWER READING FROM
THE CITY OF HUDSON...

...BUT WE DON'T
HAVE A RECORD OF
ANY SUPER-BEINGS
LIVING THERE!

HOLD ON A MOMENT...
I'M GETTING A
FIX ON--

--A SLEEPING CHILD?
SHE'S THE SOURCE OF
THE POWER?!

MY SCANNERS DO NOT
LIE, DEAR LYLA...

CONTINUE
TO OBSERVE!

THE NUMBING CHILL OF OUTER SPACE--

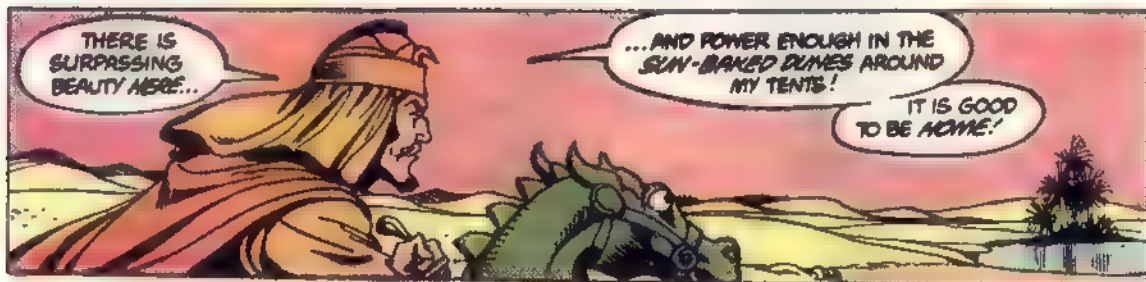
--IS NO MORE IMHOSPITABLE
THAN SOME MORE WORLDLY
CLIMES!

AND SEARING DESERT HEAT CAN KILL AS
EASILY AS COLD DOES... ON EARTH--

--OR ON THE GEMWORLD...

THIS IS WHERE
I BELONG!

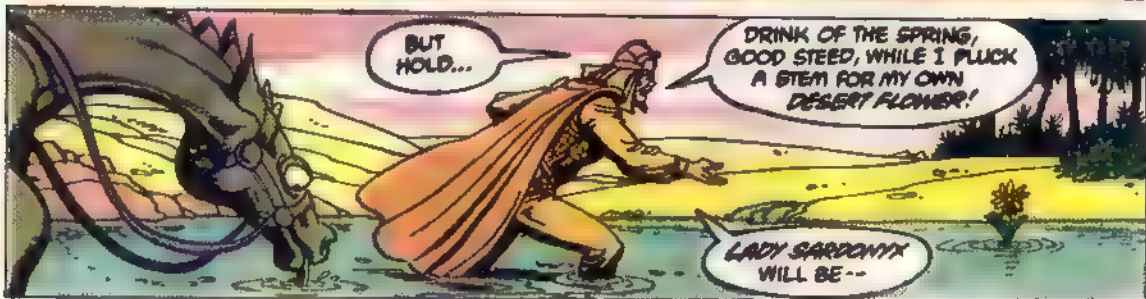
LET OTHERS SEEK
BEAUTY IN GRAND PALACES--
AND DRAW THEIR STRENGTH
FROM FORTRESSES AND
ARMAMENTS ALONE!



THERE IS
SURPASSING
BEAUTY HERE...

...AND POWER ENOUGH IN THE
SUN-BAKED DUNES AROUND
MY TENTS!

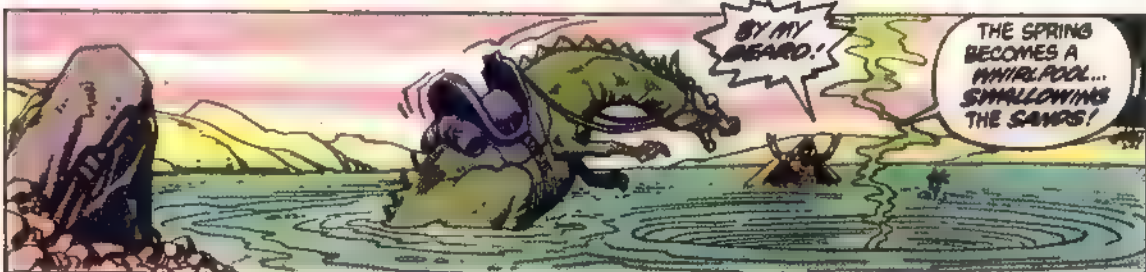
IT IS GOOD
TO BE HOME!



BUT
HOLD...

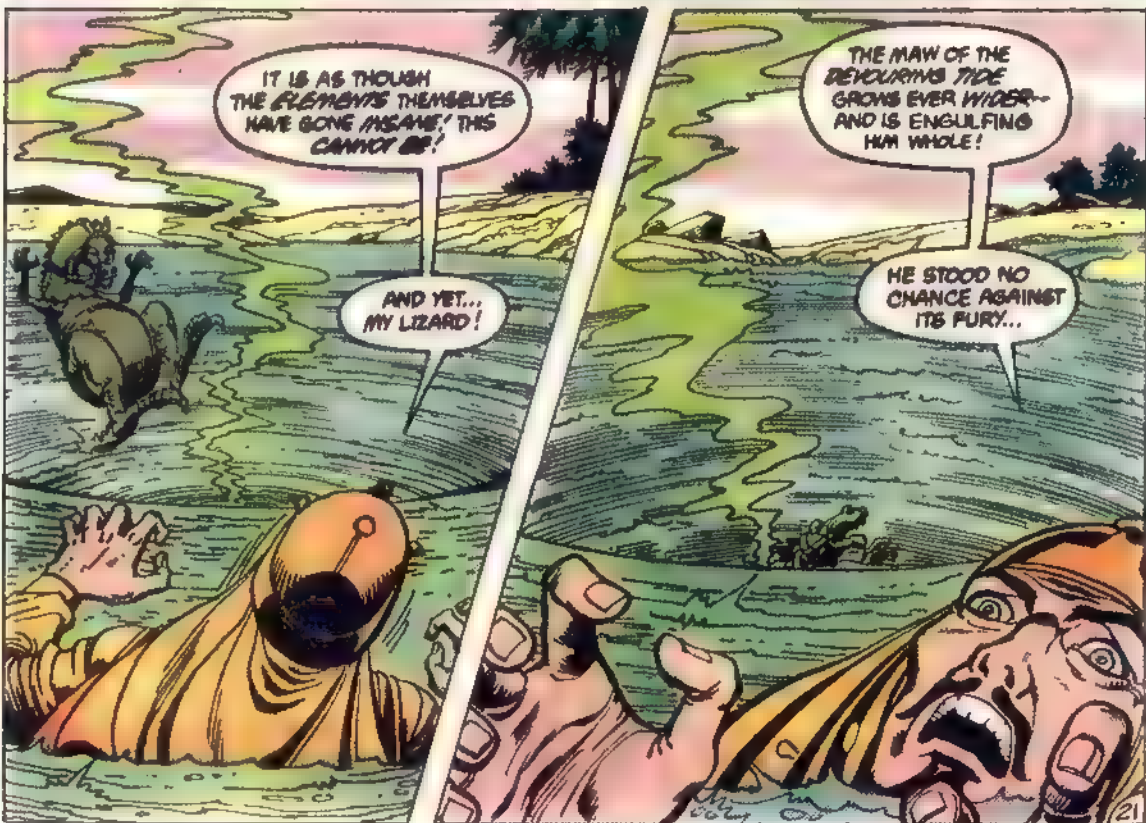
DRINK OF THE SPRING,
GOOD STEED, WHILE I PLUCK
A STEM FOR MY OWN
DESERT FLOWER!

LADY SARDONYX
WILL BE--



BY MY
BEARD!

THE SPRING
BECOMES A
WHIRLPOOL...
SWALLOWING
THE SANDS!



IT IS AS THOUGH
THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES
HAVE GONE INSANE! THIS
CANNOT BE!

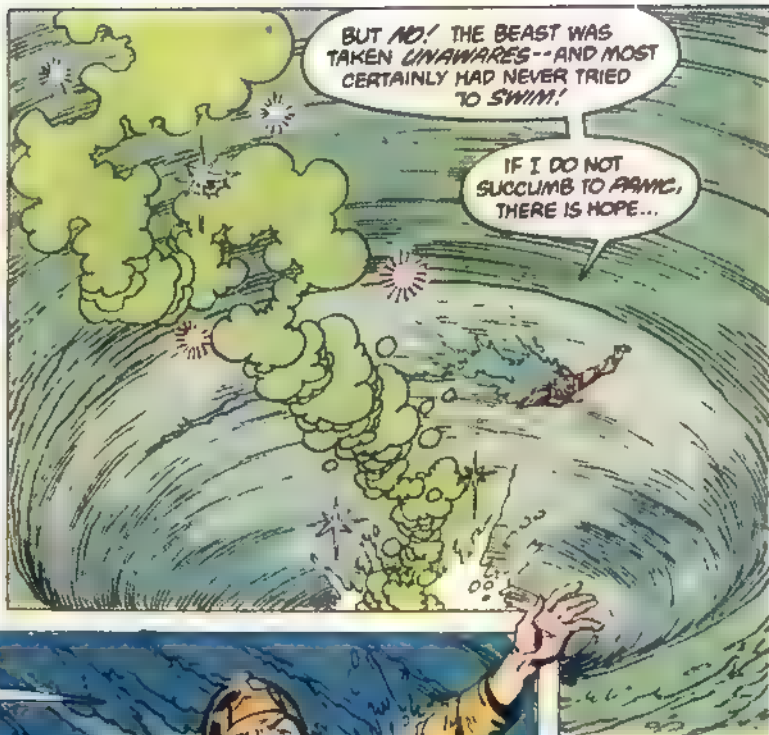
AND YET...
MY LIZARD!

THE MAW OF THE
DEVOURING TIDE
GROWS EVER WIDER--
AND IS ENGULFING
HIM WHOLE!

HE STOOD NO
CHANCE AGAINST
ITS FURY...

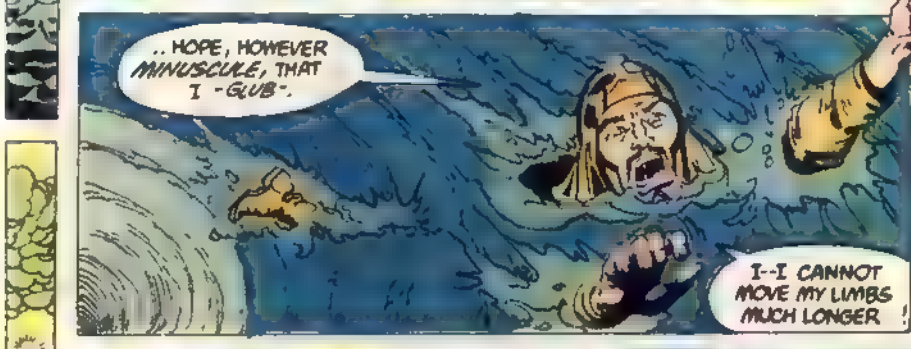


...NOR
DO I?



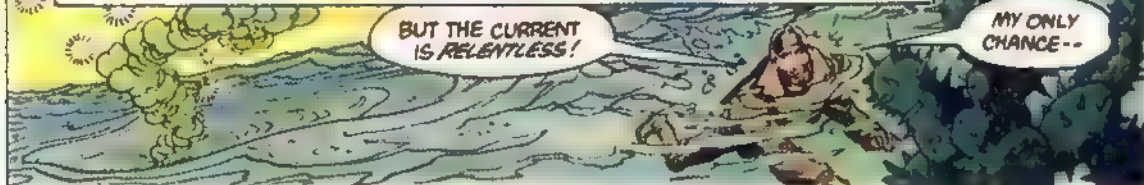
BUT NO! THE BEAST WAS
TAKEN UNAWARES--AND MOST
CERTAINLY HAD NEVER TRIED
TO SWIM!

IF I DO NOT
SUCCLUMB TO PANIC,
THERE IS HOPE...



..HOPE, HOWEVER
MINUSCULE, THAT
I -GLUB-

I-I CANNOT
MOVE MY LIMBS
MUCH LONGER



BUT THE CURRENT
IS RELENTLESS!

MY ONLY
CHANCE--



--IS TO
GRASP...

ASHK-!
THE
SPINES!

MUST..
-UGH- HOLD
ON.

N-HOLD..

ARRRRHH!

BEYOND THE SOUNDS THAT A THROAT
CAN UTTER, THERE IS STILL PAIN...



...AND THE
BLOOD OF
LORD
SARDONYX--

--TURNS THE RECEDING WATERS CRIMSON!

AND THEN...



IT--IT SEEMS
THAT I YET
LIVE...!

BUT STILL I
AM LEAGUES
DISTANT
FROM--



--MY
HOME!

THE FLOOD HAS
SWEEP AWAY ALL
SIGNS OF THE
SARDONYX
KINGDOM...

...AS IF THEY HAD
NEVER BEEN!



THE ELEMENTS, IF NOT ANGRY,
HAVE GROWN QUITE UNPRE-
DICTABLE OF LATE!

THE LENGTH AND
BREADTH OF THE
GEHWORLD HAVE
BEEN SHAKEN BY
A PLAGUE OF
STORMS--

--THAT PRESAGE
EVEN WORSE
DISASTER!

WE MUST
FIND SHELTER
AT ONCE!
HURRY TO
THE TEMPLE!

THE
RAIN, LORD
GARNET...



IT CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE! AND IT
FEELS LIKE IT'S
SOME AWFUL OMEN!



IT IS THAT
AND MORE,
PRINCESS...

...FOR I FEAR
THAT IT MAY MEAN
THE VERY END
OF THE GEHWORLD!

NEXT: DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AT THE
HOUSE OF AQUAMARINE... AS AMETHYST
LETS LOOSE AGAINST THE POWER OF
THE DARK

Purple Prose



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L-1864

Hi, everyone, and welcome to the second issue of **AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD** the monthly comic! It's been way too long a time since last we shared this page and it feels good to be back! For those of you who are new to the life of Amy Winston/Princess Amethyst, I'd like to personally greet you to the book and to "Purple Prose." This is the place where you get to voice your feelings, suggestions, likes, and dislikes. It's a very important part of **AMETHYST** for Dan, Gary, Ric, Romeo, and me, because it not only lets us communicate with you, but it gives us a chance to get to know you better, as well. We try to print as many letters as we can, but if your letter is typed or neatly printed, it's more likely to be published.

Last month we briefly reviewed the maxi-series and the annual, and told you a bit of what to expect in the exciting, adventurous, romantic, and very complicated life of Amy and Amethyst. We're particularly going to be exploring Amy's life on Earth more than we were able to in the maxi-series, and really get into how she feels and copes with the reality of her extraordinary situation. Sure, it's fun and fascinating for Amy to be an older, beautiful magical princess, and live in a sparkling, fascinating dimension, but think how hard it must be for her to deal with it all. She's of two different bodies and emotions, has two sets of friends, loved ones, and responsibilities, not to mention having to fight strange villains that cross her path. Definitely a lot for any one person to handle!

We're going to take you behind the scenes at the royal castles and delve deeper into the lives of the Lords and Ladies. You'll also be meeting the average and not-so-average person dwelling in each of the very different domains, as well as the endless fantasy creatures that reside in the amazing Gemworld. We've got so much in store for Amethyst and for you, that I could go on forever, but for the sake of not giving away too much of the great stuff we've got planned, let's hear what you have to say.—Karen

Greetings to the Creators of the Gemworld!

Being an Army wife and mother of a year-old son, one would think I have no time for such trivialities as "comics." When I came across the first issue of **AMETHYST** I'd ever seen (it was #3 in

the series) in a 7-Eleven store a few blocks from my home, I was intrigued. By the time I got it home and read it (which turned out to be four or five times), I was hooked!

I know this series is supposed to end at issue #12, but I hope I've been correctly reading signs of continuation. This is a classic, if there ever was one! Everything about this series excites me: the dialogue, the artwork (you have to go over each panel quite a few times, there's always something new to find), the characters (I especially enjoyed the Emissaries of Varn), the storyline, everything!! And Dark Opal is, to say the very least, a villain's villain's villain!

My only regret is that I don't have all the issues of this incredible epic. Thank you all so much for bringing the excitement back into comics. Please, please keep up the good work.

Donna McKinney
1813 Baldwin Avenue
Lawton, OK 73501

The best way for you to obtain the issues you're missing, Donna, is to look in the Yellow Pages for a comic book specialty store. If you live in a small town, chances are there won't be such a shop, so if that's the case, check the pages of a nearby city. These stores specialize in selling back-issues, and hopefully they'll have the ones you need.

Dear Karen,

I didn't write any letter about the **AMETHYST** maxi-series, since Gary and Dan and Ernie obviously had such a firm grip on the series. But hey! I really liked it!

And I liked the **AMETHYST ANNUAL**, too. I'm anticipating the return of Dark Opal in the form of—Rita Beckman! Hardly surprising, of course, and I'm sure I'm not the only one expecting this. I'm looking forward to the debut of the regular series.

And I'm pleased that a suitable replacement for Ernie Colón has been located. Frankly, I've always thought that Ric Estrada's pencils are overly "cartoony." But Pablo Marcos' inking adds just the right amount of realism to keep Estrada's pencils from straying too far into fantasy. This fantasy-reality combination is perfect for **AMETHYST**. Ric and Pablo complement each other perfectly. Don't break them up.

I'm assuming that Ernie Colón is too busy with other projects to commit

himself to the artwork. But can you convince him to do a few covers?

Please?

Jon Enriquez
613 Dutch Neck Road
East Windsor, NJ 08620

Ernie exquisitely inked this issue's cover over Paris Cullins' beautiful pencils. Jon, (Did I convince him quick enough?) And you've already seen, he took time out from his very busy schedule to ink last month's first issue. As for seeing more neat stuff from effervescent Ernie? You never can tell!

Dear Ms. Berger,

I remember Ric Estrada's work. I remember it first from various war titles, and from **WONDER WOMAN**, from **WELCOME BACK, KOTTER**, and a couple of things from **PLOI**. It was nice, and he obviously tried very hard, but his work was always too cartoony for my taste. Was.

Depending on how much Pablo Marcos did or didn't do, I'd say that Mr. Estrada's work has improved a few hundred percent.

There are a couple of questions that everyone is probably asking. Okay, I'm game. Why didn't Rita age in Gemworld, and why didn't Emerald get younger on Earth? You could say that Rita didn't age because she was born on Earth, but that's only half of it.

Finally, cats. Love 'em, hate 'em. They make great heroes and great villains. But why did you make him so ugly?

John Henry Sain
2251 Kings Highway
Medford, OR 97501

Okay, okay. Many of you have been asking in your letters why Rita didn't age on the Gemworld and why Emmy didn't get younger on Earth. Amy explained it last issue, but if you missed it, I'll do the honor of repeating the reason. If you're born on one world but grow up on another, you will age or get younger depending on which world you're on at that time. Sounds confusing, right? It is. Amy was born on the Gemworld, but grew up on Earth. Carnelian was born on Earth, but grew up on the Gemworld. Since time flows differently on both worlds, they are both strongly affected by the current when they travel and will change ages. Rita and Emmy were born and raised on one world, so the time difference doesn't affect them.

Dear Karen,

How do I say this tactfully? What adjective expresses what I need to say, but is not derogatory, defamatory, or in some way insulting? Okay, how about this—I didn't get a kick out of the AMETHYST ANNUAL.

To be fair, it was a kick seeing everyone again, and maybe that's why I was so disappointed with APOGA #1. The best way to do this is probably a sequential presentation of the difficulties in the annual.

Actually, the first four pages were pretty good. Ric and Pablo together have a cartoony style that I've never seen from them separately; I'm not sure I like it in AMETHYST, but that's a personal bias.

Then we get into trouble: with the first appearance of this "Wisp-woman" who seems to have it in for the Gemworld. Nothing really to complain about yet. Then a weird little dwarf dribbles his way to Amy's pendant in the middle of gym class. I wonder if they're ever going to let her back into that school again? Anyway, Dwarf lures Amy to the Gemworld, spouting cutesy rhymes, and Rita follows. Not smart, but within Rita's character. Then the dragon-worm. Then this dirt-hand carries Rita away. Then an impressive scene in the Emerald Domain.

Now we start getting into real trouble. One of the littles finds Rita's opal pendant. Questions: 1) What happened to the protective spell encasing her? 2) How did the pendant get dropped out of the magic encasement? 3) What was Rita doing with her pendant in gym class anyway? This is not a clever move, folks.

Okay, so we rescue Rita. Yay for our side. Then, in doing so, we release magical energy and make kitty into a bad guy. Plot. I can handle that. Next, Turquoise and the Princess Emerald ride onto the scene. Yay for the cavalry. Kitty screams. Boo kitty. Rita's pendant, which hangs innocuously from her neck without benefit of anything resembling a chain or necklace, shatters. Then we get the idea to take kitty back to Earth, where, in spite of the fact that it has been gone for centuries (presumably the magic it acquired kept it from aging), it would be powerless. Along the way, it rips a hole in the fabric of reality, and traps the Princess Emerald on Earth.

Okay, now the biggies: How is Amy going to explain this to anyone? Who the freak is "Wisp-woman"? Tune in in five months for the answers to these and other questions that shouldn't have had to be asked in the first place, not to mention questions from a long time ago that still haven't been touched.

How's it been going?

Rob

We tried to do an "interlude" story for the Annual. Rob, something serving as a bridge between the two series, without taking away the impact of the new regular monthly book. We decided it should be lighter in tone than anything in the maxi-series, and maybe turned

out to be too light for many of our readers. I hope that after reading the first two issues of AMETHYST in her current incarnation, you'll see that the tone and the plots are back to what they were in the maxi-series.

As for your questions concerning Rita: 1) the protective encasement spell was broken by the then mysterious unidentified villainess, who turned out to be Fire Jade; 2) her pendant fell from her neck due to the incredible impact of being dragged into the ground; 3) many kids wear their jewelry in gym class (especially if you live in New York City!).

I'm going to leave your other questions unanswered because they are in fact going to be answered very soon, if not already, in the stories themselves. Promise.

Dear Editor:

I was pleasantly surprised to find AMETHYST ANNUAL #1 on the stands this past weekend. Although I don't understand why Amethyst, in her first year of publication, deserves an annual (when people like Flash and Green Lantern don't get one), I must say that this forty-one page extravaganza was well worth the five-month wait.

By reading their work in AMETHYST and BLUE DEVIL, it is obvious that Mishkin and Cohn are two of the best writers in the industry today. The plot was entrancing and exciting, while the script was interesting yet not too lengthy. Gary and Dan showed their cleverness by introducing a little humor in the story with the rhyming dwarf. Needless to say, I enjoyed the story.

When I looked at the credits, I was dismayed to see that Ernie Colón had no direct input on this production. However, once I got five pages into the story, I found myself not noticing the difference. Ric Estrada, whose work I usually don't follow, simply did a tremendous job in capturing the Gemworld atmosphere and spirit. As usual, Mr. Marcos did a complimentary job on the pencils with his clear and well-defined inks.

I was glad to see that the Earth sequences were drawn using distinct panels, while the Gemworld panels were separated by only a thin black line. It's amazing that such a simple trick, which is also occasionally used by Colón and Giffen, can make the story flow much more smoothly than the standard panels! Again, as with the scripting, the artwork was just plain enjoyable.

In closing, I would like to summarize my thoughts on AMETHYST ANNUAL #1: The magazine was a pleasure to read.

Thanks, and see you in October when #1 comes out again.

Sincerely,
Mike Souza
Route 2
Kenyon, RI 02836

Dear Gem-type people,

I suppose I should be angry at you for the cliffhanger ending to AMETHYST ANNUAL #1, with Emerald trapped on Earth. I mean, aren't annuals supposed to be grand but self-contained epics? But then, we all know that AMETHYST is returning as a "regular" mag and that the barrier between Earth and the Gemworld will hardly remain unbreachable, else the new mag would be called "Amy Winston, Former Princess of Gemworld."

However, just because we know that the Gemworld will be the center of the new mag doesn't mean that things on Earth should be forgotten. In fact, I think that the problems of young Amy having to deal with also being (sort of) the older Princess Amethyst are quite worthy of future treatment and potentially very intriguing. One problem I foresee is how Amy or Amethyst can have normal lives, as it would seem that Amethyst will be called to the Gemworld to handle certain emergencies. I would like to see Amethyst build a regular life on the Gemworld (also, having her come only for emergencies would become a little labored as a plot device), but where would this leave Amy? Is it in fact the case that Amy is a temporary and essentially false construct and must be left to wither?

I was sorry to see that the magnificent art of Ernie Colón did not grace the pages of the annual, but Ric Estrada and Pablo Marcos did a commendable job. In fact, they worked rather well together, with the usually scratchy work of Estrada being solidified but not overpowered by Marcos' inks.

I'm looking forward to the (re)debut of Amethyst's mag and to whatever you have in store for her and her diverse supporting cast.

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"

For now, T.M., we've managed to give Amy/Amethyst about equal time on both worlds, without overusing her reasons for going back and forth.

As for Ric Estrada (no relation to Erik), we think he's the perfect person to follow Ernie, and he's doing an incredible job at it, too! And let's not forget Romeo Tanghal, who I'm happy to say will be the regular inker/finisher on the book!

NEXT MONTH: "Rebellion"—of many kinds, and Amethyst loses control of her powers in the definitive battle against Fire Jade! Until then, take care—Karen.



COMIC BOOKS: THE MAINSTREAM ATTITUDE by John Callahan



If you've ever spent a happy afternoon at a comic convention or bought a comic you enjoyed at a comic shop, consider spending the next minute in silent prayer. On August 21, 1984, Phil Seuling passed away and without him you probably would never have had either of those pleasant moments. Writers and artists deservedly get most of the attention from comic fans, because it's their dreams that are put on paper for us all to share. But there are other dreamers, too, whose dreams you've shared without knowing it.

Phil was one of the early New York comic fans who took a hand in organizing the comic conventions of the sixties, back when a turnout that topped one hundred people was record-breaking. But he dreamed of the magic that a comic could be, and when he took over the July 4th convention he made it into a Mecca for fans and professionals alike. For the first time legends of the industry were actually flown in for appearances after decades of anonymity, auctions were held, awards were presented, artists were given room to exhibit, even publishers were cajoled into participating and recognizing the existence of fandom. At its peak, every person who was interested in comics in this country who could afford to made the pilgrimage to New York for the "Seulingcon," which took on his name and personality as no such event in our field has ever been identified with a person.

Today that's all taken for granted as part of a good comic convention, and the good ones happen often enough

that July 4th's lost a bit of its luster. There are even monthly gatherings in some cities, just to sell and trade—another dream that started in Phil's imagination.

But there were larger dreams waiting. In 1973 it was almost impossible for collectors to find comics they wanted in mint condition or in sufficient quantities through newsstand distribution. Phil envisioned a way for them to buy through the handful of stores that were selling old comics, or by mail order, if the copies could only be secured from the publishers. Together with partner Jonni Levas, he made the dream real: it became the "direct sales" industry, making it possible for comic shops to spring up across the country, new distributors to come into existence, established publishers to produce comics more oriented to the fans, and new publishers to open their doors. It's hard to count all the changes that you can trace back to that one dream.

Phil was also a talented writer, both of comics and about them, a precise editor and critic, a teacher who left his students sharing his appreciation of the beauty of our language, a man who knew how to share the richness of emotion he felt from love to anger with those he cared about, a devoted father to his two daughters, and a friend to more people than most of us ever get to meet.

Phil Seuling left his dreams to share and enjoy. We'll miss him all the more because now we'll never know what his next dream would have been.

—Paul Levitz

One Saturday, I was at a comics convention in a nearby town. It was in a mall, and so people who were there saw all these kids and a few adults spread out all over the place, and speaking an indecipherable language, like, "Where did you get that **TEEN TITANS Annual?**" or "I swear, Richard, this **X-Men Graphic Novel** is a good buy!" or "I wonder who is doing the inking on the **STAR TREK III Special?**" I was just trying to trade some comics to someone when a middle-aged man comes up to me and says, "What's going on here today, son?" (He wasn't my father, in case you're wondering.) I tried my best to explain what a comic book convention was, and when I was done, he looked at me as though in pity and said, "I can't understand you kids anymore. Why don't you kids play baseball or something?"

I didn't try to answer his question then, but I'll answer it now. We "kids" buy, read, and collect comics because we like it. I have nothing against playing baseball; in fact, it is one of my favorite sports. However, I believe that comics, on the whole, are good, clean entertainment. (There are also good, gory comics that are also entertaining, but we won't talk about them; after all, this is a family publication.) They are certainly less repulsive than most R-rated movies, and some TV shows. Now, granted that comic books as a whole are not big candidates for future Pulitzer Prizes, but I think the critics of comics should look at and read them and see if they are different than the comics that they grew up on, when the stories and art were there to sell comics first, not for the quality of the plot or the drawings. In the real good comics, violence is there to move the plot forward, not to get a cheap thrill. (Your **RONIN** is a good example of this.)

I hope that adults will stop treating us comic fans like mental patients and read the comics of today. I believe they will be in for a pleasant surprise.



☐ **Arak, Son of Thunder 41:** Arak begins the long trek home!

- ☐ **Batman 380:** Rick Hoberg joins as the new penciller!
- ☐ **The Flash 342:** The trial continues as the DA gains the upper hand!
- ☐ **G.I. Combat 274:** The Haunted Tank! Mercenaries! OSS!
- ☐ **Superman 404:** Imagine if Superboy never became Superman!
- ☐ **Tales of the Teen Titans 51:** Cheshire returns in search of Adeline Kane!
- ☐ **Omega Men 23:** Can Primus and the

- ☐ **Omegans free Nimbus' lost power?**
- ☐ **Star Trek 11:** The Mirror Universe! Kirk gains control of the Excelsior!
- ☐ **Amethyst 2:** Amy is suddenly brought to the Gemworld as Amethyst to fight evil magic!
- ☐ **Jemm, Son of Saturn 6:** Jemm escapes from Synn!
- ☐ **The Immortal Dr. Fate 2:** Presenting the Pasko-Giffen saga!